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FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR - LESTE INDEPENDENTE

(Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor)

FRETILIN

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW INDONESIAN OFFENSIVE IN EAST TIMOR,3 EAST TIMORESE STUDENTS ARRESTED IN BALI BY THE INDONESIAN MILITARY POLICE

A NUREP MEMBER (FRETILIN'S UNDERGROUND NETWORK) IN EAST TIMOR, SAID THAT THE INDONESIAN ARMY HAS BEGUN, IN MIDDLE MARCH, A NEW MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN EAST TIMOR, WITH MORE THAN 40,000 INDONESIANS SOLDIERS, 6,000 TIMORESE CONSCRIPTS (HANSIPS) AND 2 HELICOPTER SQUADRONS, TO DESTROY THE ARMED RESISTANCE, EITHER KILLING OR ARRESTING THE FRETILIN LEADERSHIP, BEFORE THE PROPOSED VISIT OF PORTUGUESE PARLAMENTARY DELEGATION TO EAST TIMOR, IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO THE SAME UNDERGROUND SOURCE 35 INDONESIANS SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN MILITARY CLASHES FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF MARCH, IN THE FOLLOWING DISTRICTS: AINARO (2), BAUCAU (7), LAUTEM (11), MANATUTO (2), SAME (2) AND VIQUEQUE (8). (OF EAST TIMOR).

IN BALI 3 EAST TIMORESE STUDENTS, FERNAO TRINDADE 17 YRS, MARIO TRINDADE 22, AND FELIZBERTO MASCARENHAS 23, WERE ARRESTED AND TORTURED BY THE MILITARY POLICE IN DENPASAR, BALI, ON 26 APRIL, 1990 FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER STUDENTS CLAIMED THAT THE ARRESTS WERE MADE IN RETALIATION FOR THE EVENTS ON 26 December 1989, IN WHICH ONE POLICEMAN DIED AND 3 EAST TIMORESE STUDENTS WERE INJURED DURING A CHRISTMAS PARTY BRAWL IN DENPASAR, BALI.

THE STUDENTS ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE COMMANDER OF The MILITARY DISTRICT,LIEUTENANT COLONEL Thris Deantorou, SAID THE EAST TIMORESE COULD BE KILLED IF THEY PROTEST AGAINST THE MILITARY DECISION.

END.

FOR FUTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alfredo Ferreira, FRETILIN REPRESENTATIVE for Australia on 089-279177 after 2:30 p.m.